

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

New independent claim 12 sets forth with specificity the drive means and guide means of the device for extending bones in accordance with the present invention. The prior art cited by the examiner, namely, Li, Baumgart et al., and Shouts, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach disclose, suggest or render obvious the details of independent claim 12 as now pending. None of the cited or applied references teach the specific guide means nor the location of the guide means with respect to the drive means as claimed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 and claims 13-20 patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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